

Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association

Minutes: Meeting – Tuesday 13 December 2022

John Cioffi, President called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

- Conducted by Secretary - see attached Meeting Attendance Report.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was duly made and seconded to approve minutes from monthly meeting conducted on Tuesday 10 October 2022. Voice vote taken; unanimous approval w/no abstentions. Motion carried.

President Report – John Cioffi

- John's one-page President Report was distributed along with the agenda and can be found on website after the meeting. Please refer to report as it contains numerous items.

Registrar Report – Bob Greemore

- Reports distributed earlier were appended to meeting agenda.
- All double-rostered players must report which team they intend to play with by December 31st.
- 177 rosters processed.
- Because Bob will be gone in February and March, all team credential books should be submitted for his review and verification no later than January meeting even if not all required games have been completed.
- Teams headed to NE regional tournaments will need to have birth certificates included and verified.
- National bound teams must have Consent to Treat forms included.
- Bob noted that there are numerous unclaimed players and recommended local associations find (by filtering his list) and recruit the players who reside in their territory.
- Thirty-one invitational tournaments have been held so far this season, 23 of which held at Jay Peak. Yet not all have submitted applications required which can be easily found on NED website. No sanctioning without application approval. Penalties for unsanctioned tournaments may be forthcoming.
- Local associations can find properly sanctioned invitational tournaments on VSAHA website.

Policy Committee Report – Nate Isham, Chair

- Transfer reports can be found on web site. Majority of the 291 transfers were due to mergers.
- Transfer policy is currently under review. Nate provided a lengthy and detailed history of the policy and asked all members to evaluate the utility of the existing rule in anticipation of any upcoming revisions to be recommended by the committee.
- The history and intent of the Outstanding Debt List was also detailed and described as a

great success resolving disputes.

- Meeting Attendance Policy is also under review.
- The committee is considering aligning VSAHA discipline policies with the USA Hockey Standardized Discipline Policy.

Rules Committee Report – Nate Isham, Chair

- Abuse of official (verbal – repeatedly!) by 18U player is under consideration.
- Local Association coach was suspended and has filed a grievance which is under consideration.
- Numerous game misconducts have been reported.
- Nate has initiated a review of Local Associations' By-Laws to evaluate whether they comply with USA Hockey By-Law 10.
- Closed items reported:
 - Parent entered officials' room without authorization and accepted a 30-day suspension.
 - Two match penalties in 16U. In both cases USA Hockey Standardized Discipline Policy was employed to determine number of game suspensions – accepted by both players.

Player Development Report – Chris Micciche and Pat Phillips

- All but one of the evaluations have been completed with great turnout at all ages. Next Wednesday the 18th will be the second and last evaluation for the Y15s (2008), 3:40-4:00 p.m. at Cairns. As always, additional evaluators are encouraged to join.

Goalie Coordinator Report – Leon Lifschutz

- Burlington Try Goalie for Free was attended by fifteen aspiring goalies. USAH Goalie Coordinator, Steven Thompson assisted. Leon intends to repeat this next season in central or southern Vermont, along with other sessions throughout Vermont.
- Leon will have his web page up and running in the very near future – stay tuned.

State Tournament Committee Report – Kim Gaines, Chair

- Committee has been meeting bi-weekly with great success.
- Tournament details will be forthcoming prior to December 31st.
- Hosts for playdowns will be announced in January.
- Host for 2023 championship weekend will be Stowe.
- All offers to host either playdowns or CW should be submitted as early as possible.
- Vermont will be hosting the Youth and Girls 14U tier 2 regionals March 9-12, 2023.
- Vermont will be hosting the Youth 10U tier 3 regionals March 17-19, 2023.
- Enter scores ASAP – don't delay!
- Tier movements will be posted soon.
- "League Game" is a new concept similar to home and home which is being considered.
- All 14U girls and youth who are double-rostered (high school and LA) must be reported to Kim.
- Becky Street will soon be making inquiries about girl's teams intentions regarding state tournament.

Play-Up Committee Report – John Cioffi, Chair

- There were 145 play-up requests this season, the majority of which were girls.

Girls/Women Director Report – Becky Street

- Several college teams hosted girls' nights:
 - UVM on October 29th.
 - Norwich University on November 5th.
 - Middlebury College on December 12th.
- Saint Michaels College will be hosting girls' night on January 21st at 8:00 p.m. at Cairns.
- Castleton University girls' night TBA.
- Futures Camp tryouts for girls 12s (2011) and 13s (2010) have been scheduled on December 28th at Leddy. See VSAHA website for times.

8U Hockey & Grow the Game Coordinator Report – Mike Smith not available, JC subs

- Variety of LAs have used equipment trailer.
- VSAHA equipment trailer is always available.
- Saint Michaels College Try Hockey For Free with Essex Youth Hockey assistance was attended by over 50 players.

Referee-in-Chief Report – Mike Hickey

- 238 officials registered while 150 have completed all credentialing requirements.
- High school games make the availability of refs a problem for local associations.
- Abuse of officials has increased.
- Mike recommends VSAHA consider adopting a two-game suspension for any game misconduct occurring in the last few minutes of a game.

Disabled Hockey Coordinator Report – David Santamore

- The East Coast Jumbos, based in Hopkinton, Massachusetts is an organization devoted to “athletes with Autism and other developmental disabilities who wish to participate in the great sport of ice hockey.” The Jumbos have hosted many great games, with more to come.
- SASA recently hosted a Special Hockey event attended by 15 players, 3 of which were new.
- VT Sled Cats start in January.
- North Country Sled Dogs are reviewing their budget with a very uncertain future.
- Pioneers have been very active in Northeast Sled Hockey League. However, it was noted the Pioneers are not registered with USA Hockey and therefore are not allowed to employ USA Hockey officials.
- Since the VA has reopened, VT Ice Vets are doing well and setting up scrimmages and clinics in January and February. Vets will be at Norwich this upcoming weekend.
- CSB President Chris Weinberg will be attempting to coordinate a disable hockey program next fall.

Player Safety Coordinator Report – Jody LaVanway

- All associations statewide have filled their Player Safety Coordinator position.
- All concussions must be reported immediately, and Return-to-Play protocols are mandatory.
- Blade lacerations have increased. Stop The Bleed video is available online and is strongly recommended for all coaches who may be thrust into the role of first responder for these potentially fatal injuries.

Treasurer Report – Pat Phillips

- Recent USA Hockey audit produced a few unremarkable recommendations which VSAHA has thirty days to implement.
- USA Hockey block grant this year is approximately \$8,000. Requests will be considered in January.

SafeSport Coordinator Report – John Cioffi reporting for Ray St. Pierre

- Some volunteers have still failed to complete mandatory SafeSport certification.
- Ray St. Pierre must receive a copy of all SafeSport reports.

Other Business

- Justin Martin’s “House to Tier 1 Plan Statewide!” slide presentation was again reviewed and discussed.

Association Business

- None reported.

Adjournment

- At 8:47 p.m. President called for adjournment. A motion was duly made and seconded for adjournment. Voice vote taken; unanimous approval w/no abstentions. Motion carried.